



Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

Vol. 22, No. 2

Nov.-Dec., 1953



August P. Beilmann

Winner of Audubon Conservation Award for 1953—Friday, November 20

Few St. Louisans have had a finer opportunity to preach and practice conservation during recent years than August P. Beilmann, manager of the Shaw Arboretum at Gray Summit, Missouri, and winner of the 1953 Conservation Award of the St. Louis Audubon Society. A born naturalist, trained horticulturalist and outstanding water management expert, Beilmann has had ample opportunity to apply all these skills in his work at the Arboretum. The Brush Creek watershed is an outstanding example of flood control in the mid-west. Mr. Beilmann's experiences have been reported by him in many horticultural and scientific journals and in his recently published book, *WHAT TREE SHALL I PLANT*. His recent production, with Friends of the Land, of the pageant and conservation demonstration "The Saga of the Meramec" was an outstanding success.

FUTURE AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAMS ON KFUE

It is with pride and pleasure that we announce that Leonard Hall of Possum Trot Farm will be the guest speaker on "Science and You," the Audubon Society radio program, on Conservation Award day, Friday, November 20, from 3:45 to 4:00 p.m. He will be interviewed by the program moderator, Dr. John D. Whitney, Science Consultant to the St. Louis Public Schools. The subject to be discussed will relate to Conservation and the significance of the Audubon Society's work, as exemplified specifically in annual awards for work in this field.

Beginning with the program on Friday, November 6, there will be a new monthly feature to which listeners may look forward—a Nature-of-the-Month series in which Rex Conyers will describe what is going on out-of-doors for that month. These programs will come early in the month so that you will know what to anticipate and look for, not only in the bird visitants, but in various phases of wildlife. We feel very fortunate that Mr. Conyers will be able to give us his time and experience for this regular series that we feel our listeners will greatly enjoy.

Between now and the Christmas holiday we hope to arrange radio interviews with Mr. Oscar Hawksley of Cape Girardeau, who is an expert on caves; with Dr. Elijah Adkins, M.D., an authority of the development of species; Mr. Charles Clements, a favorite with child audiences when he had his own radio program, "Uncle Charlie's Radio Chats"; Mrs. Virginia Eifert, an authority on the Mississippi River, who is on the staff of the Illinois State Museum and will be in St. Louis during "Book Week" to autograph her new book, **Three Rivers South**; and there will also be recordings from the National Audubon Society, preceding each Screen Tour, in which the lecturer will be interviewed by a member of the National organization.

Tape recordings are being made at KFUE Radio Station of all the **Science and You** programs, one of which was played at the recent fall meeting of the Missouri State Audubon Society. Remember to tune in to your radio program over KFUE on Friday afternoons!

Thelma Wiles Thalinger

FIELD TRIP

On the field trip to the Weber Lake area, St. Charles County, September 19, led by Mildred and George Graff, all members of the group had the pleasure of observing a flock of European Tree Sparrows on Highway 94. The Weber Lake area is heavily wooded with pecan and oak trees and wild grape vine twining over head, and Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, Red shouldered and Duck Hawks were found here. The trees were alive with warblers and all binoculars were directed toward the tree tops and searched out twenty-one species of warblers. Total list for the day was seventy-seven species.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, SCREEN TOUR

PANAMA VENTURE, by Dr. Lorus and Margery Milne of Durham, New Hampshire.

Screen Tours will take place in the new auditorium of the Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington, at 8:15 p.m. Miss Mildred Reese, Membership Chairman, will be present in the lobby after 7:30 p.m.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD AT CASTLE PARK, MICHIGAN!

Observed by Mrs. James B. Costen, 36 Pointer Lane, from July 12 to August 16, 1953

At 6:30 Sunday evening, July 12, 1953, I was sitting on the porch of my cottage. Looking up into the trees, I saw a hummingbird dart through a ray of sunlight and settle on the branch of a beech tree about twenty feet above the ground. The flight in was so direct, my first thought was of a nest. I looked closely, and there it was; with binoculars every detail was perfect. Over the nest which was exactly the color of the beech, was a three leaf twig which made a perfect canopy. The bird remained on the nest a few moments, then darted away, only to return quickly. This went on until dark.

When observed the next morning, the nest appeared to be finished, beautifully made of lichens, and strongly anchored to the beech branch with spider webs. However, the mother seemed not satisfied, and spent the next few days bringing back bits of fluff or down, and working furiously with her feet to get them into their proper places. At intervals she emitted a secretion from her bill which she applied to the outside of the nest with much the same motion as icing a cake. Many times she returned empty-billed and sat quietly before darting out again. This made me wonder whether there were already eggs in the nest, since I have heard that this tidying up goes on after the eggs are laid, and sometimes even after they are hatched.

By July 16, I was convinced that the eggs were there, for she was sitting more quietly. The sorties continued and she occasionally smoothed the outside of her nest with her bill. She would dart from her nest, catch a bug in mid air, and be back in an instant. This same pattern was repeated every day until July 26, exactly two weeks from the day I first saw her.

Early Sunday morning of this day, the mother lighted on the side of the nest and poked her long bill down inside with a feeding motion. I knew the babies had hatched! Not every time she came back to the nest would she feed them, only about every third time. By Tuesday, July 28, the babies were stronger, and I could see two little heads, and two wide-open hungry mouths. Often during the past weeks I heard a squeak in the woods, and I thought surely I would see the male, but never once did he put in his appearance to help with the rearing of his brood.

We left Michigan on July 31, and I deputized Mary Nobel and Jean Costen Carr to watch the progress of my little family. They reported that the mother continued to zoom in and pump each baby full of food, and that by August 14, the little faces were well feathered and the pattern was showing.

By early morning, August 16, only one baby was there, and by early morning, the 17th, the other one had flown. Did they sneak off in the quiet of the night purposely, to deprive everybody of the thrill of seeing them leave? The first fledgeling left the nest exactly five weeks to the day I first observed the nest.

Dr. Costen was fortunate in getting four excellent pictures with his Leica telephoto lens; two of the mother on the nest, and two feeding the babies. Need I say that this whole experience was the high spot of my summer?

Plan to attend . . .

Wildlife Photography Exhibit

November 24 to December 18

Washington University Student Center

MR. JOHN GERARD

Professional Wildlife Photographer

will lead a discussion of the exhibit on December 2 at 8 p. m.

This exhibit is co-sponsored by the Zoology Department of Washington University and the St. Louis Audubon Society

Open to the Public

NEWS

MILDRED W. PHILIPPI sent us pictures of the first baby Hornbill hatched in captivity at the Honolulu Zoo.

MRS. WILLIAM SCARLETT wrote from Castine, Maine, that a Bald Eagle had landed in a tree just outside their house.

MRS. JOHN LONGMIRE, Webster Groves, telephoned that a Hermit Thrush was living in the evergreens in her yard the past week.

On October 3, bandits attacked and killed DR. RALPH B. SWAIN on the Pan American Highway, 160 miles south of Mexico City. Dr. Swain was returning with his family to his post in Managua, Nicaragua, as Point IV entomologist at the U. S. Embassy. He was a native of Carbondale, Illinois, and a 1930 graduate of Soldan High School. During summers he was on the staff of the Federal Entomological Laboratory then located in Webster Groves. For many years he was an active member of the St. Louis Bird Club. Dr. Swain had been on a two months' leave and had spent a week in St. Louis. Some of our members had visited with him, and had heard his illustrated talk on his work in Nicaragua. He is the author of *The Insect Guide*, illustrated by his wife, SuZan Swain.

Twelve reproductions from John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, adapted for copper wheel engraving on Stuben Glass, will be on exhibition in the Stuben Room of Jaccard's in Clayton, November 1-21.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

VOL. 22, NO. 2 November, 1953

OFFICERS

Pres.....Oliver M. Evans
Vice-Pres. Earl L. Hath

J. Marshall Magner
Waldemar Palm

Secy.....Mrs. Arthur L. Hughes
Treas.....Mrs. Viola M. Holliday
Exec. Secy., Mrs. Marshall Magner

516 Bacon Ave.
Webster Groves 19, Mo.
Telephone TU. 4-2092

EditorRex Conyers

WILDLIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS

Pack of 10 in color with envelopes

Pack	Price
1	\$1.00
3	2.00
7	4.00
10	5.00

See them at the Screen Tours or order by mail from Service Department.

W. R. HECHT
3955a Shenandoah Ave.
St. Louis 10, Mo.

Make checks payable to
St. Louis Audubon Society